

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2003
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on June 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Elihu Harris Bldg. Auditorium, Oakland.

Members Present: Rod Diridon, Sr., Chairperson
 Fran Florez, Vice Chairperson
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Bob Giroux
 Joseph E. Petrillo

Members Absent: Jerry Epstein, Vice Chairperson
 Leland Wong
 T.J. Stapleton

Approval of Minutes for May 27, 2003 Meeting

Chairperson Diridon presented the minutes for approval. The May 27, 2003 meeting minutes were approved by consent, 5-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Diridon presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. The list of meetings for compensation was approved by consent, 5-0.

Election of Officers

Member Bates nominated Member Petrillo to serve as Chairperson for the term July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004. Member Petrillo was elected Chairperson by consent, 5-0. Member Petrillo nominated Member Florez and Member Epstein to continue to serve as Vice Chairpersons. Member Florez and Member Epstein were elected to serve as Vice Chairpersons by consent, 5-0. Member Bates moved to approve a resolution establishing term of elected officers. The draft resolution read as follows:

WHEREAS it is prescribed in the Public Utilities Code section 185020 (f) the Authority shall elect officers to serve a term of one year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE California High Speed Rail Authority hereby takes the following action:

- 1) Establishes the commencement date of the term of office to coincide with the fiscal year of the State. Therefore the term of office would commence on July 1 and expire on June 30.

Member Giroux seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Members Reports

Chairperson Diridon reported on the HSGTA Annual Conference held May 12-15, 2003 in Orange, CA. The HSGTA Board will expand its Policy Board to add four additional members. The Los Angeles Town

Hall Group & Common Wealth Club will be hosting a high-speed rail symposium in July. Chairperson Diridon introduced his wife, Gloria Duffey, President of the Common Wealth Club and gave a brief overview of the symposia agenda.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported that the Authority's proposed 2003-2004 budget was passed through the Senate and Assembly Subcommittees. The conference committee of the budget reports includes funding for the Authority as follows:

- Sufficient funding for staff operating expenses
- \$1.8 million for the completion of the environmental work
- \$1.2 million federal funding expenditure authorization

Executive Director Morshed reported the EIR will be finished in late August and the activity pertaining to the draft EIR document will be funded through the 2002/2003 fiscal year budget. However, beyond the draft EIR document the Authority will not have any funds for any other activities until the proposed 2003/2004 state budget is approved. Therefore, there may be some delay in the Authority's activities.

Executive Director Morshed reported that he and Member Petrillo attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) meeting where MTC discussed the notion of requesting the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alignment. MTC voted to stay with their previous recommendation to support the Pacheco Pass.

Executive Director Morshed reported that he was honored to attend the opening of the BART to the San Francisco Airport on June 20th. He noted a number of things the BART project and the high-speed rail project have in common. The similarities are:

- Take the train to the plane
- Major projects with major obstacles
- Have many skeptics, but when the project is completed the community is proud
- Started as a visionary project pushed by one person, Quentin L. Kopp.

Summary of Economic Growth Effects Analysis

Executive Director Morshed stated the studies conducted by the Authority would be summarized into the draft EIR document. One of the studies that will be summarized into the draft EIR document is Economic Effects Analysis.

Public Comment

In behalf of Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, Diane Tannenwald of the City of Oakland welcomed the Authority to Oakland.

George Mazur and Chris Wornum, Cambridge Systematics presented a summary of preliminary results from the Draft Economic Effects Analysis. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

State Senator Jim Costa gave an update pertaining to the bond measure, which he supports. He stated that in January 2003 he began developing a campaign plan that would lay out a proposal over the next 22

months. A committee has been formed and it has some initial seed money that will allow for some initial efforts. Senator Costa gave three reasons why he thinks the bond measure should be passed:

1. California needs high-speed rail to complement/enhance current transportation system to accommodate population growth.
2. Quality of life issues relating to air quality, traffic mitigation, general quality of life
3. Economic Impacts

Senator Costa stated that if voters pass the bond measure next November it would have an economic impact in California like nothing anyone has seen since 1960 when the bond measure was passed to implement the water project.

Member Giroux and Member Petrillo personally thanked Senator Costa for his past and continued efforts pertaining to the proposed high-speed rail project.

Summary of Selected Topics from Draft Technical Studies

Executive Director Mehdi Morshed introduced Peter Gertler of Parsons Brinckerhoff. Mr. Gertler presented a summary of preliminary results from the draft environmental technical studies on Geology, Cultural Resources, Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Traffic/Transit and Parking, Hydrology/Water Quality, Section 4(f) and 6(f), Public Utilities. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Mikhail Davis, The Brower Fund of Earth Island Institute

Mr. Davis expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

Richard Tolmach, California Rail Foundation

Mr. Tolmach expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

John Woodbury, Bay Area Open Space Council

Mr. Woodbury did not desire to be heard at this meeting. Therefore Chairperson Diridon summarized his remarks. In his written remarks, Mr. Woodbury strongly urged the Authority to give serious consideration to the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

Alan Miller, Train Riders Association

Mr. Miller expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation. Mr. Miller referred to others who also support the reconsideration of the Altamont Pass such as, Senator Jackie Speier, Senator Don Perata, Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, Assemblyman Mark Leno, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, City of Emeryville and the Merced Group of the Sierra Club.

Susan Smartt, California State Parks Foundation

Ms. Smartt expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed high-speed rail line on wilderness areas and state parks. She expressed uncertainty about the public being adequately informed about the detrimental impact of the proposed routes on state parks.

Norman Rolfe

Mr. Rolfe spoke in behalf of Hale Zukas who had to leave the meeting early. Mr. Zukas expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

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J.D. Rowell

Mr. Rowell expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

Ted Buehler

Mr. Buehler his expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

Wayne Swan

Mr. Swan voiced concern for the rail line being studied, stating that it is too narrow of a line. Mr. Swan suggested a peer review of the TGV, France. Mr. Swan also his expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation.

Paul Brooks, UC Berkeley

Mr. Brooks expressed his opposition of the proposed high-speed rail system and claimed that the Authority has not consulted with the academic communities such as UC Berkeley and UC Irvine.

Review and Approval of Outreach Request for Proposal (RFP)

Executive Director Morshed reported that the existing public outreach contract has expired and due to the state contracting process, the Authority must execute a new contract. Therefore Executive Director Morshed presented a draft RFP for an outreach contract and requested authorization to issue the RFP on July 1, 2003. Member Giroux moved to approve the draft RFP and timeline for an outreach contract. Vice Chairperson Florez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

SamTrans Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Executive Director Morshed reported that the proposed corridor between San Francisco and San Jose is within the Caltrain corridor and therefore, high-speed rail would propose to share tracks with Caltrain. He expressed his gratitude to Caltrain and SamTrans for working with the Authority over the years. Executive Director Morshed introduced Mr. Howard Goode of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB). Mr. Goode stated that there are significant benefits for a partnership between the Peninsula Corridor JPB and the Authority and now is a good time to give specific focus on that partnership. The proposed draft MOU outlines several specific areas for coordination between the Peninsula Corridor JPB and the Authority. Mr. Goode stated that the draft MOU would be presented to the Peninsula Corridor JPB next week. Chairperson Diridon presented the MOU between the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (SamTrans) and the Authority to share technical information for approval. Vice Chairperson Florez moved to approve the MOU and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a formal agreement with Peninsula Joint Powers Board for the purpose of sharing technical information. Member Giroux seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Cooperative Agreement with Spanish Government

Executive Director Morshed reported that the proposed draft cooperative agreement is a formal agreement between the Spanish Government and the Authority to share technical information. The Prime Minister of Spain will visit Governor Gray Davis in July and there are plans to sign the cooperative agreement in the presence of the Spanish Prime Minister and the Governor during that time. Executive Director Morshed presented the draft cooperative agreement with the Spanish Government to the Authority and requested authorization to enter into this agreement. Vice Chairperson Florez moved to authorize the Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Authority to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Spanish Government. Member Giroux seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Public Comment

Michael Kiesling

Mr. Kiesling expressed his support for the Authority to reconsider the Altamont Pass alternative that has been eliminated from further investigation. Mr. Kiesling also presented documents to the Board expressing his opinion.

Larry Miller, San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee (SJVRC)

Mr. Miller requested the to Authority to schedule a Board meeting in the San Joaquin valley shortly after the release of the EIR. He also encouraged the Board Members to become familiar with proposed alignments by personally driving the routes. Mr. Miller also requested that the Authority hold more informational meetings with SJVRC.

Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The date and location of the next Authority Board meeting is to be determined.

Member Bates congratulated and thanked Chairperson Diridon for his efforts as Chairperson of the Authority and for giving the Board a leadership like it has never had before. Chairperson Diridon stated he has enjoyed serving as Chairperson of the Authority and looks forward to continuing to serve on the Board under the new Chairperson's leadership.

Executive Director Morshed suggested that upon the release of the draft EIR document, the Board hold all-day meetings with half the day devoted to a field trip along some of the corridors to obtain a broader understanding of the corridors being investigated.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.